

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A face information transmission system, comprising:

image acquisition means to acquire an image of the face of a subject;

first generation means to generate first image information relating to said subject and including the positions of characteristic points of said face, based on the acquired image;

second generation means to generate second image information according to the facial expression of the face of said subject based on the generated first image information; and,

transmission means to transmit the generated second image information to a prescribed communication terminal.

2. The face information transmission system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

utterance acquisition means to acquire utterances issued by said subject; and

image judgment means to judge whether or not said first image information satisfies prescribed conditions,

wherein, when said image judgment means judges that said first image information satisfies prescribed conditions, said second generation means generates second image information according to the facial expression of the face of said subject based, at least, on said first image information, and when said image judgment means judges that said first image information does not satisfy prescribed conditions, said second generation means generates second image information according to the facial expression of the face of said subject based on said utterances.

3. The face information transmission system according to Claim 2, further comprising:

phoneme identification means to identify phonemes corresponding to an utterance acquired by said utterance acquisition means; and

phoneme judgment means to judge whether an identified phoneme satisfies prescribed conditions,

wherein, when said phoneme judgment means judges that said phoneme satisfies prescribed conditions, said second generation means generates second image information according to the facial expression of the face of said subject based, at least, on said phoneme, and when said phoneme judgment means judges that said phoneme does not satisfy prescribed conditions, said second generation means generates second image

information according to the facial expression of the face of said subject based on said first image information.

5 4. The face information transmission system
according to Claim 3, wherein, when neither said first
image information nor said phoneme satisfies the
respective prescribed conditions and said utterance
cannot be acquired, said second generation means
employs image information determined in advance as
10 said second image information.

5. The face information transmission system
according to Claim 1, wherein said first image
information comprises information to identify the
distribution of said characteristic points in the face
15 of said subject.

6. The face information transmission system
according to Claim 1, wherein said image acquisition
means acquires images of said face along a time series,
and said first generation means generates said first
20 image information including displacements in the
positions of said characteristic points along a time
series based on the acquired images.

7. The face information transmission system
according to Claim 6, wherein said first image
25 information includes information to identify the

movement of said characteristic points relative to the face of said subject.